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MICHAEL E. LEWIS
Commissioner

December 29, 2000

PROVIDER NOTICE 00-24

To: All Ambulance Providers

RE: HCPCS Code Changes

Effective for dates of service (DOS) January 1, 2001 and thereafter, Medicaid will reimburse the following new HCPCS codes, which will replace current codes. Any codes not listed will remain the same. Please note that providers must continue to use the appropriate diagnosis codes as listed in the Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual, Chapter 8, pages 6-7. The following table is from the Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 177/ Tuesday, September 12, 2000. The headings are from the provider manual.

Procedure Code for Basic Life Support (BLS) Services

Current HCPCS Code(s)	New HCPCS Code	Description of new code
A0328, A0362	A0429	Ambulance Service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS-Emergency)

Procedure Codes for Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services

Current HCPCS Code(s)	New HCPCS Code	Description of new code
A0330	A0427	Ambulance service, ALS, emergency transport, Level 1 (ALS 1- Emergency) (cannot be billed with A0422)
	A0433	Advanced life support, Level 2(ALS 2). The administration of at least three different medications and/or the provision of one or more of the following ALS:Manual defibrillation/cardioversion, endotracheal intubation, central venous line, cardiac pacing, chest decompression, surgical airway, intraosseous line.

Procedure Codes for Non-emergency Services

Current HCPCS Codes (s)	New HCPCS Code	Description of new code
A0326	A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support, non-emergency transport, Level 1 (ALS 1) (cannot be billed with A0422)

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A0324, A0360	A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport (BLS) (30 miles or more requires prior authorization)
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Procedure Codes for Air Transportation

Current HCPCS Code(s) & modifier	New HCPCS Code	Description of new code
A0020 ZR	A0435	Air mileage; fixed wing (per statute mile)
A0020 ZQ	A0436	Air mileage; rotary wing (per statute mile)
A0030	A0430	Ambulance service, conventional air services transport, one way (fixed wing)
A0040	A0431	Ambulance service, conventional air services transport one way (rotary wing)

Medicaid will reimburse providers for only the coinsurance and deductible for the following procedure codes.

<i>Procedure code</i>	<i>Description</i>
A0432	Paramedic ALS intercept (PI), rural area, transport furnished by a volunteer ambulance company which is prohibited by state law from billing third party payers.
A0434	Specialty Care Transport (SCT). In a critically injured or ill patient, a level of interfacility service provided beyond the scope of the Paramedic. This service is necessary when a patient's condition requires ongoing care that must be provided by one or more health professionals in an appropriate specialty area (for example, nursing, emergency medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic with additional training).

Should you have any questions, please contact Carol Akin at (334) 242-5010.

Michael E. Lewis, Commissioner

Distribution: Alabama Hospital Association
 Medical Association of the State of Alabama
 Department of Public Health
 Department of Human Resources
 Electronic Data Systems (EDS)
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